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Top Secret

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NATIONAL INTELLIGENCE DAILY CABLE

Saturday 5 November 1977 CG NIDC 77/257C



NATIONAL SECURITY INFORMATION

Unauthorized Disclosure Subject to Criminal Sanctions

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State Dept. review completed

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National Intelligence Daily Cable for Saturday, 5 November 1977.

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[REDACTED] The NID Cable is for the purpose of informing senior US officials.

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Chile
The Netherlands
Bulgaria

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INDIA-USSR: Desai's Foreign Policy

25X1 [] Indian Prime Minister Morarji Desai's recent trip to Moscow and his plan to play host to President Carter this month reveal aspects of the "genuine nonalignment" policy proclaimed by India's leaders. The new policy does not mark any significant break with the past; New Delhi still values its close ties with Moscow although the Janata Party government appears to be less suspicious of and more responsive to US initiatives than its predecessors have been. Desai apparently wants cordial personal relations with Soviet leader Brezhnev as well as with President Carter, seems willing to accept massive amounts of aid in selected areas from both countries, and adamantly refuses to sign the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty as supported by both the US and the USSR.

25X1 [] Desai went to Moscow late last month to assure the Soviet leadership of India's continued good will. He was pleased by the outcome of his visit. The Prime Minister was given VIP treatment, which reflected the importance with which the Soviet

Union views India, and he had long and apparently frank talks with President Brezhnev. In their joint communique, the two leaders reaffirmed the principles of the Indo-Soviet Friendship Treaty of 1971.

25X1 [] Both leaders refrained from bringing up contentious issues like the rupee-ruble exchange rate. Brezhnev did not try to elicit any commitments toward Asian collective security--long a goal of Soviet diplomacy--and Desai chose not to criticize the Soviet leadership on human rights matters. Desai left Moscow with promises of possible Soviet aid in modernizing India's aluminum, coal, steel and iron industries along with plans to strengthen the Soviet-Indian Joint Commission as a vehicle for increasing Indian trade with the USSR.

25X1 [] Desai refused to accede to Brezhnev's request that India sign the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty in its present form; Desai, who like most Indians regards the treaty as discriminatory, later stated at a news conference that he saw no difference between Soviet and US positions on this issue. He said the US and Soviet efforts to negotiate the demilitarization of the Indian Ocean area accorded with India's own interests.

25X1 [] The Soviet leaders also were pleased with the results of the visit, and was relieved that Desai was willing to continue a close relationship with them. Since the 1960s, India has been the cornerstone of Soviet policy in South Asia and the Indian Ocean. The USSR has seen India as the only power in the region capable of balancing the Chinese and has supplied New Delhi with large amounts of sophisticated military equipment and economic aid. More recently, the Soviet leadership has also begun to see India as a possible counterweight to the growing regional role of Iran.

25X1 [] Relations with India had caused Moscow some concern since Desai's election in March. The Soviets feared that the Janata government's "genuine" nonalignment policy was a cover for pro-Western sympathies and would eventually lead to a decline in Soviet influence in India and, ultimately, throughout South Asia.

25X1 [] At the conclusion of his visit, however, the Indian leader indicated that he thought the Soviet-Indian relationship, especially in economic and technical fields, should continue

and deepen. These sentiments presumably reflect an awareness in New Delhi that India is still dependent on the Soviet Union for a good deal of its sophisticated military equipment.

25X1 [] The new Indian Government is likely to work hard to ensure a warm greeting for President Carter if he visits India. Foreign Minister Vajpayee stated only this week that the Indian Government was looking forward to President Carter's visit and appreciated the "remarkable change" in the US attitude toward India. The substantive results of President Carter's talks with Indian leaders, however, are likely to be similar to the outcome of Desai's trip to the USSR; a willingness to accept aid, a desire to increase Indian exports, but a refusal to sign the Non-Proliferation Treaty. []

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NIGERIA: South Africa Boycott

25X1 [] *The Nigerian Government remains undecided about how firm a policy to adopt to discourage foreign companies from doing business with South Africa. This week, the regime's second-ranking official, Brigadier Yar Adua, seemed to advocate a harder stance than has been taken by Head of State Obasanjo and a committee of civil servants charged with recommending specific measures for approval by the ruling Supreme Military Council.*

25X1 [] In a meeting with the Nigerian Chamber of Commerce, Yar Adua declared that "strong measures" had to be taken against multinational corporations that "were supporting the apartheid regime." He said that, regardless of what the committee recommends, the government already has decided that firms operating in both Nigeria and South Africa will be required to cease further investment in South Africa and to agree to a gradual reduction in present investment there. New firms seeking to invest in Nigeria will have to end equity ownership in South Africa first, while firms now operating in Nigeria and having no investment in South Africa must continue to stay out.

25X1 [] At the same time, Yar Adua cautioned that Nigeria had to proceed carefully so as to cause the least damage to its economy, and he said that none of the foregoing requirements would be applied to firms selling technical know-how to Nigeria.

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[redacted] Yar Adua functions as a prime minister and heads a clique of young, ultranationalist northern officers of which Obasanjo, as a southerner, must be mindful. Last year, Yar Adua played a key role in the government's adoption of stricter requirements for expanded Nigerian participation in and control of foreign-owned businesses that has slowed new foreign investment. [redacted]

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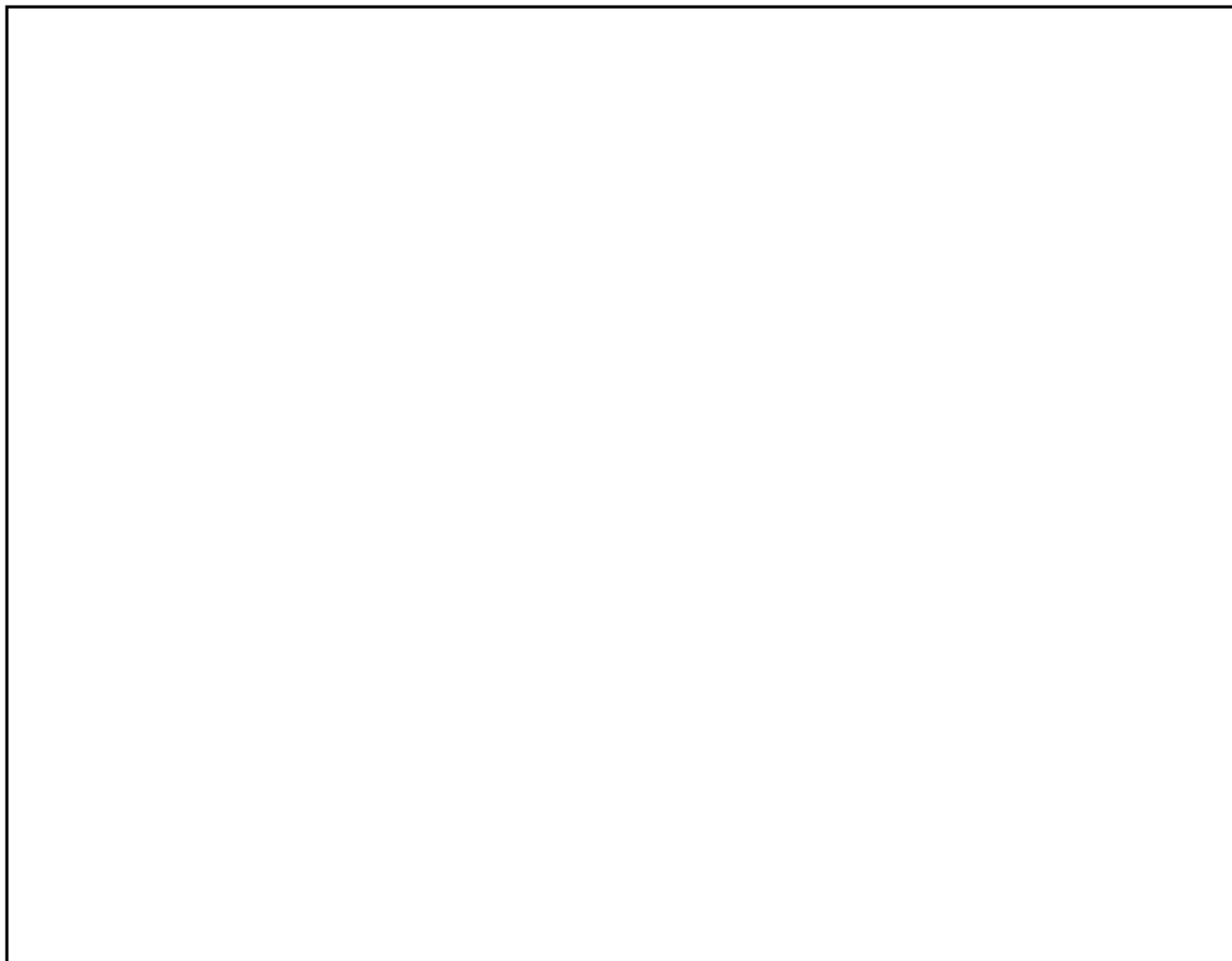
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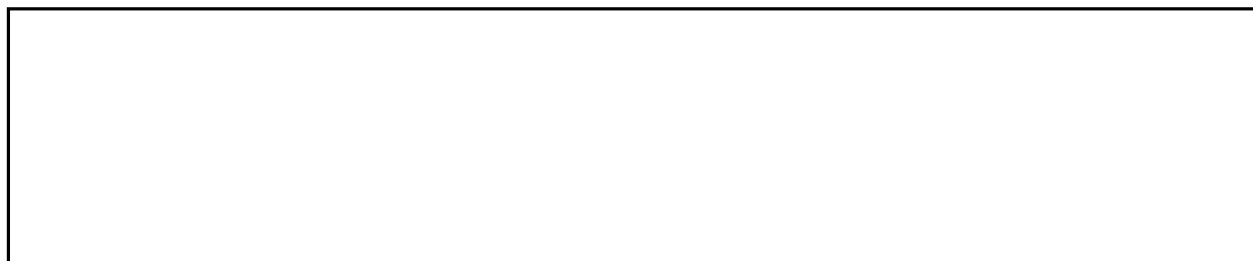
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Chile

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[] Chilean President Pinochet's choice of a highly respected retired army general to head the National Center for Information is another effort by the military regime to improve its tarnished human rights image and its relations with the US.

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[] The center was formed in August to replace the widely discredited National Intelligence Directorate (DINA). In alerting a senior US Embassy official in advance that Odlanier Mena Salinas would become head of the new agency, the Chilean Government appeared to be demonstrating its interest in responding to US concerns. Foreign Minister Carvajal told the Embassy that Mena is "an excellent person" and that his appointment will be followed by other personnel changes in the new agency as well as by a further restructuring of that organization.

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[] Mena appears to have good credentials for the job. Highly regarded for his professional ability and friendliness toward the US, he was until October 1975 director of army intelligence. At that time he suddenly retired, reportedly over personal concern for human rights abuses and out of resentment over the expansion of DINA operations into what he considered army concerns. []

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The Netherlands

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[] Dutch caretaker Prime Minister den Uyl yesterday gave up, for the fourth time since the election last May, his attempts to form a new government. Interparty talks on a coalition broke down when den Uyl's Labor Party and the Christian Democrats could not agree on a list of ministers.

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[] Although this latest breakdown could spell the end of den Uyl's four and a half years in office, mediators may once again succeed in patching up the differences. According to

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press reports, den Uyl balked at accepting a list that might be voted down by the Labor Party congress that opens today. Once the congress is over, he may try again.

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[redacted] In any case, den Uyl is likely to remain in the caretaker role until a new government is formed. [redacted]

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Bulgaria

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[redacted] Bulgaria has reported that the epicenter of the earthquake on Thursday was 100 kilometers southeast of Sofia. The quake measured 5 on the Richter scale and was felt throughout the country. No loss of life has been reported, although there was some damage to the Velingrad-Varvara railroad and to buildings in the village of Vetren Dol at the epicenter. There was minor damage in neighboring towns. Repairs have already begun.

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